

REMARKS

Claims 25-30 are pending in the present application. With entry of this amendment, Applicant amends claim 28. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claims 25-27

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 25-27.

Claims 28-30

The Examiner rejected claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanemitsu et al. (US 2001/0027712). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The present invention relates to a process for fabricating a key incorporated in a keyboard musical instrument. The process comprises preparing a bar formed with a substantially straight through-hole and a weight piece. The weight piece has a substantially straight tube portion roughly equal in diameter to the through-hole. The weight piece is inserted into the through hole. Force is then exerted on the ends of the tube portion. The force radially expands the ends of the tube portions to the side portions of the bar. Because the expanded ends are greater in diameter than the diameter of the through-hole, the weight piece is reliably secured to the bar.

Applicant has amended claim 28 to recite "exerting force on both ends of said substantially straight tube portion so as to make both ends radially expanded to side portions of said bar, thereby securing said weight piece to the bar." This amendment clearly recites that force is exerted to change a substantially straight tube portion into a tube portion with radially expanded ends. It is believed that claim 28 before this amendment reflected this change to the tube portion, and that the current amendment is simply meant to more clearly claim the invention.

Figs. 10A and 10B of Kanemitsu disclose a weight 24B having a body 26a and two flanges 26b. Paragraph 0125 discloses that the flanges 26b ensure a sufficient caulking effect for securing the weight 24B within the key body. However, Kanemitsu fails to disclose "exerting force

on both ends of said substantially straight tube portion so as to make both ends radially expanded to side portions of said bar, thereby securing said weight piece to the bar.”

Nor would it be obvious to somehow modify a process utilizing weight 24B to perform the process of the claimed invention. Paragraph 0124 discloses that weight 24B differs *only* in shape with weight 24A. Paragraph 0121, in turn, discloses that weight 24A is molded, such as by injection molding. This means that weight 24B – including flanges 26b – are molded (see also paragraphs 0029 and 0037). As a result, flanges 26b of weight 24B are formed *before* insertion into hole 9 of Kanemitsu. Kanemitsu therefore actually teaches away from exerting any force on weight 24B once inserted to create flanges 26b.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 28 and its dependent claims 29 and 30 are patentable over Kanemitsu for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 393032034420.

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Respectfully submitted,

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